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 Order Clearance Committee Meeting 378  
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Order M-41, as amended - Amendment 1 - Chlorinated Hydrocarbon  
 Solvents

Industry Division: Chemicals Division

The Division makes the following comments concerning  
 the proposed amendment to Order M-41:

At the present time there is an ample supply of  
 chlorine to allow the producers of chlorinated hydro-  
 carbon solvents to run at capacity. Since productive  
 capacity has increased during the past year for ethylene  
 dichloride, trichloroethylene and carbon tetrachloride,  
 it has been possible to build a satisfactory stockpile.  
 It is now possible and desirable to allow greater  
 quantities for civilian purposes than are allowed  
 under the terms of this Order.

It is proposed accordingly to amend the Order to  
 provide that persons wishing the solvents for uses  
 entitled to a B-2 rating may receive 100% (instead of  
 50%) of base period consumption, and that those wishing  
 carbon tetrachloride may receive 150% (instead of 100%)  
 of base period consumption.

Messrs. Lucey and Finley explained that the proposed relaxa-  
 tion of the Order is preferable to its complete revocation since the  
 demand-supply situation for chlorine, which has eased during the past  
 two months, may become critical again. Because the chlorine industry lacks  
 storage facilities for further inventories, it will have to shut down  
 if no other outlets for these products are provided. Such a shut  
 down is not desirable because of the time required for resumption  
 of production. There have been about four cycles of stringency to  
 surplus since the Order became effective. Indirectly, chlorine is  
 stored by the stockpiling of the solvents. Furthermore, control  
 should certainly be retained over the dry cleaning industry. Such  
 control became effective October 16, 1941, and was developed with  
 considerable difficulty. If all restrictions are removed, the  
 industry will probably use too much carbon tetrachloride, the  
 controls will have to be reinstated, and the effect of the Division's

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educational campaign will have been lost. Mr. Lucey stated that no persons can start in the dry cleaning business unless they have military contracts. About 15 to 20 percent of the dry cleaning is done with carbon tetrachloride, and the balance with less critical petroleum solvents.

Mr. Ince felt that shortages of labor and equipment would prevent dry cleaners from using excessive quantities of the solvents and that if an Order can be eliminated, thus saving paper work, it should be done.

Mr. Lucey said he would not object to revocation of the Order if the Committee could assure the prompt issuance of a new Order if it was required, though he preferred that the Order remain in force. Mr. Finley admitted that the type of Order is outmoded and that if a new Order were drafted it would probably take a different form.

Messrs. Lucey and Finley left the meeting at this point.

Mr. Walker felt it would be confusing to the industry if the Order were revoked and subsequently reinstated.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- (a) A recommendation be transmitted to the Division that consideration be given to revocation of the Order.
- (b) If the Division insists, however, on retention of the Order, the proposed amendment be approved, subject to the following revision:
  - 1. Elimination of the requirement for filing Form PT-127.
  - 2. Insertion of the standard appeals clause.

Mr. Walker dissented.